

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 00147 180207Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05 L-03 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00
INRE-00 /048 W

-----036974 180228Z /64

O 172045Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4473

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 0147

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, BB

SUBJECT: NAVAL FACILITY NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A) BRIDGETOWN 0036, B) HEWITT/EDDY TELECON 1/16 78

1. AMBASSADOR SPOKE WITH FORMIN HENRY FORDE AND PERMSEC
ALGIE SYMONDS EVENING JAN. 16 ABOUT SUITABLE DATES FOR
TALKS ON NAVFAC. BARBADIANS SAID THEY WOULD LET EMBASSY KNOW
TODAY JAN. 17 WHETHER THEY COULD ACCEPT WEEK FEB. 6 OR FEB. 13.

2. AFTER AMBASSADOR DEPARTED THIS MORNING FOR MIAMI, CHARGE
TELEPHONED SYMONDS FOR DECISION. SYMONDS SAID THAT AFTER
CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, GOB NOW BELIEVES FEBRUARY OUT ALTO-
GETHER AND THAT MARCH ALSO HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE. REASONS
GIVEN AS HEAVY TRAVEL SCHEDULE DEVELOPING FOR KEY OFFICIALS
IN FEBRUARY AND EXTREMELY HEAVY WORKLOAD INVOLVING COMPLETION
OF BUDGET IN MARCH.

3. COMMENT: WE ARE AWARE OF DEPARTMENT'S DESIRE TO CONDUCT
TALKS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN TANDEM WITH THOSE ON BAHAMAS,
TURKS AND CAICOS. WE FEAR, HOWEVER, THAT WE WILL NEED TO SHOW
MOST PERSUASIVE AND SPECIFIC CAUSE TO BARBADIANS IF WE ARE TO
AROUSE SUFFICIENT SENSE OF URGENCY IN THEM TO TALK BEFORE APRIL.
REASONS ARE: (A) BARBADIANS ARE IN FACT STRETCHED VERY THIN IN
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TERMS OF BODIES VERSUS WORKLOAD; (B) THEY ARE INCREASINGLY
TAKEN UP WITH BELIZE QUESTION (TED ROWLANDS INITIATED DISCUSSIONS
HERE TODAY); (C) THEY PROBABLY BELIEVE TIME WILL TRANSLATE
INTO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE WHICH THEY CAN POINT TO EX POST FACTO
AS HAVING BEEN PART OF SETTLEMENT, EVEN THOUGH WE DENY IT.
EDDY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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